

## CAPITAL OF IRELAND IS IN FLAMES

KUT EL AMARA  
BRITISH ARMY  
TAKEN BY FOE

General Townshend Surrenders to Overwhelming Forces of Turks.

## IS OFFICIAL WORD

English Admiralty Statement Admits Defeat in the Mesopotamia.

London, April 29.—General Townshend, the British commander at Kut-El-Amara has surrendered.

The British force which surrendered at Kut-El-Amara amounts to about 10,000 men.

Major General Charles Townshend, commander of the British forces besieged at Kut-El-Amara, Mesopotamia, by Turkish forces since last December, has surrendered. This information was contained in a British official statement issued this afternoon.

The official statement added that General Townshend destroyed all his guns and munitions before surrendering.

The following official announcement was made:

"After a resistance protracted for 145 days and conducted with a gallantry and fortitude that will be forever memorable General Townshend has been compelled by the final exhaustion of his supplies to surrender."

"Before doing so he destroyed the guns and munitions."

"The force under him consists of 2,570 British troops of all ranks and services and some 6,000 Indian troops and their followers."

General Townshend probably was driven to surrender to avoid starvation of his force. A recent official Turkish communication said that the position of the British at Kut-El-Amara was critical and that they were expecting to receive small supplies of food by aeroplane. An official statement received yesterday from London announced that a ship laden with supplies had been sent up the Tigris that it had been grounded about four miles east of the city.

Less than a score of miles away is a relief army which for months has been attempting to reach the besieged forces of General Townshend. Of late, however the Turks' resistance has increased and aided by floods they have been able to hold the British in check.

No official figures have been given out as to the number of troops which set forth from the Persian gulf in November of 1914 on the expedition which has now ended in surrender. Unofficially the number has been estimated as high as 50,000, but it was probably considerably smaller than this. This force has suffered heavy losses in severe battles with the Turks.

End of Long Siege.

Early in December last year General Townshend's army was beaten in battle at Ctesiphon, 18 miles below Baghdad, and retreated to Kut-El-Amara. Since that time it has been besieged by a large army of Turks, cut off from all communication with the outside world except by wireless. During the long siege the British had defended themselves so successfully that the Turks decided to starve them out. It had been known of late that the situation was becoming desperate. For some time after the Townshend expedition started out from the Persian gulf it was steadily successful. It pushed up the Tigris and Euphrates until in September of 1915 it defeated the Turks decisively in an encounter at Kut-El-Amara. Then the invaders pushed on to within a few miles of Baghdad, their goal. They defeated Turks at Ctesiphon, but later the Turks, reinforced, compelled them to retire hastily to Kut-El-Amara.

## THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and vicinity.

Probably showers tonight and Sunday; cooler Sunday.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 51. Highest yesterday, 68. Lowest last night, 51.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., 4 miles per hour.

Precipitation, none.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 42; at 7 a. m., 66; at 1 p. m., today, 33.

Stage of water, 13.8; a rise of 1.1 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

THE WAR  
TODAY

The situation in Dublin is still serious, although Field Marshal French in an official statement in London says military operations against the rebels are proceeding satisfactorily. The rebels still hold the general postoffice as their general headquarters and continue to withstand the efforts of the military to dislodge them. They have been driven out of St. Stephens Green with bombs with heavy losses, according to the Daily News.

Four hundred of the rebels have been made prisoner. At Belfast Liberty hall, headquarters of the Sinn Fein society, was captured by the military after being shelled by a gunboat.

The visit of American Ambassador Gerard to Emperor William at German army headquarters has aroused great interest all over Germany, though the reply of the German government to President Wilson's latest note on the submarine controversy is not expected until early next week.

On the various battlefields in Europe the fighting is still in progress, though no marked changes in positions have been reported. The British have met reverses both in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Near Quatia the Turks annihilated four squadrons of British cavalry, besides inflicting other losses, according to Constantinople. A British vessel loaded with supplies grounded in the Tigris river while attempting to relieve the beleaguered force of General Townshend in Kut-El-Amara.

Turkish aeroplanes also have been active in dropping bombs on British positions at Port Said and at Quatia.

Artillery engagements have been violent both east and west of the Meuse in the vicinity of Verdun, and there has been some infantry activity along the front in France held by the British.

On the Russian front activity of German aeroplanes has been marked.

On the Austro-Italian and Russian-Turkish fronts no important actions have been reported.

In the Verdun region in France the Germans have resumed a pronounced aggressive, delivering a vicious attack in the vicinity of Thiaumont farm east of the Meuse near Donauwert and massing for an assault after violently bombarding French positions near Avocourt and the dominating hill No. 304 to the west of the river.

The Thiaumont attack was repulsed with heavy losses Paris declares while the French artillery dispersed the German masses before they could advance to the assault in the Avocourt sector.

British casualties in April were 12,550 officers and 19,256 men, or slightly in excess of those during March.

PAY OFF STRIKING  
EMPLOYEES IN OHIO

Youngstown, Ohio, April 29.—The 1,200 employees of the Republic Rubber company, who are affected by the closing of the plant here, are being paid off today. Announcement was made yesterday that the entire plant would be closed indefinitely because of demands of employees for shorter hours and increased pay.

At a meeting last night of representatives of engineers, electricians, pipe fitters, machinists, boiler makers' unions, a metal trades department of the Youngstown district labor unions was formed. This will give iron and steel workers a new organization binding 30,000 men here more closely together. A mass meeting of the labor men is scheduled for Sunday, when the calling of a general strike in the Mahoning Valley Steel mills, May 1, is to be discussed, it is said.

HELD FOR DEFAMING  
GEORGE WASHINGTON

Tacoma, Wash., April 29.—Paul R. Hafer was placed on trial in the superior court today charged with maliciously defaming the memory of George Washington. Hafer was arrested on complaint of Colonel Albert E. Joah, an attorney, after the publication in a newspaper of a letter signed by Hafer in which Washington was referred to as "a slave owner" and an inveterate drinker. Hafer stated that it was intended for an argument against hero worship.

The prosecution bases its case on a state statute which makes a criminal offense of publication of matter exposing to scorn or ridicule the memory of a deceased person.

Boat Statue of Liberty Base; Dead. Baltimore, April 29.—Colin McLean, well known contractor, died at his home here today of pneumonia. He was born in Nova Scotia 72 years ago. Among his undertakings were the construction of the foundations for the Statue of Liberty and Brooklyn bridge.

MORE FORCES  
ARE HURRIED  
OVER BORDER

Several Thousand Troops Sent From Columbus to Join Expedition.

## OBREGON IS HOPEFUL

Carranza War Chief Feels Conference Will Bring Satisfactory End.

El Paso, Texas, April 29.—General Alvaro Obregon, minister of war of the de facto government, with the chief military commanders of northern Mexico, made a return call of courtesy this morning upon Major Generals Scott and Funston replenary to the first conference between American and Mexican military officials that is largely to determine the future course of the military arm of the United States in Mexican territory in pursuit of Francisco Villa and his bandits.

Minister of War Obregon, with plenipotentiary powers from First Chief Carranza, sounded a hopeful note with the expression that "we should reach a satisfactory termination of these negotiations that will meet with the approval of our people."

He, with Generals Trevino, Gutierrez, Calles, Gaviira and Santos, with his civilian assistants, will contend that the de facto government is ready to take over the pursuit of the Villa bandits and protect the border, and therefore the United States soldiers in Mexico should be recalled, while Generals Scott and Funston will counter, it is understood, with the proposition that American troops be disposed in certain spheres of northern Chihuahua to remain until the Carranza government has shown that there is no longer a Villa bandit menace to the American border states.

Major General Scott said the conference might not be held today, but Sunday or Monday.

## Discuss Conference Plans.

General Obregon and his party were met at the international bridge by a troop of American cavalry which escorted them to the railroad station, where, on General Scott's private car, the Mexican officials were welcomed. The return call was of some length and the plans for the first conference were discussed.

## Session May Be Brief.

The conferees believe negotiations will be concluded early next week. The American military representatives will be in close and constant touch with Washington, and it is there that El Paso believes the first news will be made known of the outcome of the conference.

The return call of General Obregon was concluded at 11:30 o'clock. At that time it was learned that the first conference in all probability would be held this afternoon. It is understood the meeting would be held in Juarez.

## More Troops Sent Over Border.

Columbus, N. M., April 29.—Points along the American line of communication in Mexico are being strongly reinforced. Two companies of infantry marched from the base here early today preparatory to crossing the border, while nearly one thousand cavalrymen who left Columbus yesterday afternoon broke camp at Gibson's line ranch, 15 miles west, shortly after daybreak and crossed the frontier.

While no reason was assigned at military headquarters for the new movement of troops into Mexico it was learned that the infantry assisted by the engineering corps are to prepare the roads for the heavy traffic of the supply trains and for the coming rainy season. This season frequently makes the roads of northern Chihuahua almost impassable.

Only routine reports were received from the front today and none of these gave any news of the column of Colonel George A. Dodd, last reported near Minaca in pursuit of fleeing Villistas.

## Dodd Returns to Base.

Field Headquarters, Namiquipa, April 28, (by wireless to Columbus, N. M., April 29).—The column of American cavalry under Colonel George A. Dodd, which for six days has been pursuing a large band of Villa bandits through the rocky defiles of the continental divide, was reported today to have returned to its base at Minaca.

The band is said to be practically all dispersed, numbers of its members apparently holding to the belief that Villa is dead.

Training of  
State Guard  
Is Extensive

Springfield, Ill., April 29.—Unusual preparations for intensive training of middle west national guard artillery units at Camp Robinson, three and one-half miles east of Sparta, Wis., are indicated by the war department's inquiries which have been received at the adjutant general's office here concerning the ability of the Illinois National Guard to furnish horses for the camp of instruction.

From June 1 to 4 at least 100 horses will be needed at Camp Robinson. From June 5 to June 14 400 horses will be used and from June 14 to 24 the guardmen's training camp will require 350 horses. From June 25 to August 25 the camp will require 150 animals.

Incidentally the Illinois National Guard will be unable to furnish any horses suitable for the camp as it is not deemed advisable to ship the 50 artillery horses received from the government early in the winter and which were distributed to the state batteries this week. Three animals died after an attack of shipping fever and these were replaced. Ten horses each costing \$200 were turned over to the commanding officers of the batteries at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago, April 26, by Colonel S. O. Tripp, chief quartermaster officers of the Illinois National Guard and then shipped to their new home stations.

Battery C, at Fort Sheridan, owns 32 horses and did not receive any of this consignment. Batteries B, D and E also own a few trained horses.

"The government provides forage, shoeing and veterinarian expenses for these horses," said Colonel Tripp, "and one attendant for every five horses. The state is required to provide stables for the animals. The state's artillery is expected to develop wonderfully now that each battery has a few trained horses."

The rifle range at Camp Sturgis, Vandavia, Ill., was dismantled this week and two additional target machines put up at Camp Martin Effingham, Ill.

CONFESSES THE  
MURDER OF GIRL

Slayer Blames Kick on the Head by a Horse for His Crime—Asks State for Operation.

Lansing, Kans., April 29.—Fred Bissell, whose confession of the murder of Edna Dinsmore, a 10-year-old girl, at Topeka Tuesday, was given out last night by officers at the state penitentiary here, has written an appeal asking that an operation be performed on his head to make his condition normal. The statement as given out by officers today follows:

"A kick on the back of the head by a horse, caused an affliction at the base of the brain, which affliction causes me to be unaccountable for what I do at times. I hereby appeal to the officials of Kansas to secure for me at the earliest possible date, an operation for the purpose of raising that portion of my skull now causing pressure on my brain so it will be restored if possible, to that of a normal man."

(Signed) "FRED H. BISSELL. (Witnessed)

"L. L. Kiene, Robert Miller and J. K. Coddling."

Warden Coddling promised to have this done if Bissell would go on and make a full confession.

"His case is the worst in the United States that I know of," said Warden Coddling. "I am going to keep my promise to him and the operation he asks for will be performed if possible. It may cause a complete recovery."

CHICAGOAN WANTED  
IN OTTUMWA, IOWA

Chicago, April 29.—William H. Utt, a Chicago lawyer, is wanted in Ottumwa, Iowa, on charges of embezzling funds amounting to nearly \$150,000. Utt is already under indictment and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. The sum he is alleged to have misappropriated is part of the estate of his second wife, who died at French Lick Springs, Ind., in 1908. Mrs. Lucile I. Allen, niece of Utt's wife, claims the estate under the terms of the will of Mrs. Utt. Mrs. Allen is said to be living in Chicago at present.

The estate comprises stocks, bonds, mortgages and real estate in Ottumwa and Chicago.

According to Nathan Utt, a brother of the accused man, Utt is in Georgia on business. He has been advised of the issuance of the warrant and has advised the judge in Ottumwa that he will appear there voluntarily for trial. Utt has, according to the brother, already given Mrs. Allen considerable money from the estate, although he asserts she has no claim to any of it. Mrs. Allen has already brought several suits against the estate and has been awarded \$10,000 according to her lawyers.

FRENCH HALT  
TEUT ATTACK  
NEAR VERDUN

Germans Are Driven Back in Attempted Assault—Suffer Heavy Losses.

## LIQUID FIRE IS USED

Crown Prince Pours Flaming Fluid at the Enemy—Artillery Breaks Charge.

Paris, April 29, (12:30 p. m.)—After a violent bombardment of French positions near Avocourt and Hill 304, on the Verdun front west of the Meuse, German troops were massed for an assault. The war office report of this afternoon says this attack was prevented by French artillery, which dispersed the German troops.

A vigorous attack was made on French trenches east of Thiaumont farm but the Germans were repulsed with heavy losses.

## French War Report.

The text of the statement follows: "In the Argonne district a surprise attack executed last night at a point on the north of Four de Paris made it possible for us to clean up some of the enemy trenches and bring back some prisoners."

"On the left bank of the river Meuse yesterday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon German troops were massed in the communicating trenches to the north of Hill No. 304 with the idea of attacking our lines. They were at once attacked with hand grenades and prevented from coming out and then dispersed. Our artillery caused the explosion of a depot of munitions in the same region."

"During the night there was a general bombardment in this sector the fire being particularly spirited in the regions of Avocourt, Esnes and Hill No. 304."

"On the right bank of the river Meuse yesterday afternoon after a violent preparatory artillery fire directed against our first lines, together with a curtain of fire of great intensity, the Germans delivered an attack against our trenches east of Thiaumont farm in which they employed flaming liquids. Cut down by the shells of our artillery and the fire of our machine guns, the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. At the same hour an attack upon our positions between Douaumont and Vaux also was checked by our fire. The remainder of the night passed in relative quiet on this part of the front."

"In Lorraine we have repulsed a strong reconnoitering party of the enemy in front of the wood of Banal south of Domezre."

"In the Vosges a small German attack with grenades against one of our trenches at La Chapelle was effectively checked by our curtain of fire."

## German War Report.

Berlin, April 29 (by wireless to Sayville).—The German army headquarters today issued the following statement:

"Western theatre: Between La Basse canal and Arras there were lively continuous mine engagements which resulted successfully for us."

"In the sector of Givenchy-en-Gohelle our advance is progressing. Two British hand grenade counter attacks were singularly repulsed."

"In the Meuse sector new French counter attacks at Dead Man's Hill and to the eastward failed."

"German anti-aircraft guns south of Caronvillers brought down a French biplane."

"Eastern front: After and previous to March 20 German troops conquered the Russian positions between Stanarozze and the farm of Stachowie. Fifty-six officers and 5,600 men were taken prisoners and one cannon, 28 machine guns and 10 mine throwers were captured."

"The Russians also suffered heavy bloody losses which were considerably increased during the night as the result of a Russian counter attack which was effected in thick masses."

ROOSEVELT TO TALK  
IN CHICAGO TONIGHT

Chicago, April 29.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who is to address the Illinois Bar association tonight on the subject, "International duties and American ideals" and to confer with political leaders, was met on his arrival here today by a delegation headed by Nathan W. MacChesney, president of the Illinois State Bar association.

## Latest Bulletins

Washington, April 29.—The new bill providing for a maximum appropriation of \$45,000,000 for the Mississippi to be spent over a period of years recently agreed to by the house flood control committee was reported to the house today by Chairman Humphreys.

London, April 29.—British casualties this month as compiled from published lists are slightly in excess of those in March. The total from all fields of operations is 1,255 officers and 19,256 men, compared with 1,107 officers and 19,317 men in March.

London, April 29, (4:32 p. m.)—The Berliner Tageblatt says that Germany's reply to the latest American note has been completed and will be delivered at the beginning of next week, according to a dispatch from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph company.

Washington, April 29.—An appeal today to President Wilson from a lawyer, representing Mrs. Agnes Newman, a sister of Sir Roger Casement, asking Mr. Wilson to receive her in order that she might ask assistance for Sir Roger, was referred to the state department. Mrs. Newman is in New York.

Berlin, April 29.—The capture of Russian positions south of Lake Narocz between Stanarozze and Stachowie by German troops together with more than 5,600 prisoners was announced by the war office today.

RESERVE PLAN IS  
EFFECTIVE SOON

Country Wide Check Clearing and Collection Ruling to Start June 15 Federal Board Announces.

Washington, April 29.—The federal reserve board announced today that it would put into effect June 15 its new plan for country wide check clearing and collection. Under the plan the actual cost of clearing and collection of checks will be assessed against member banks in proportion to their use of the system.

A circular announcing its decision was mailed today by the board to 7,600 member banks. The important features of the plan, the announcement says, are as follows:

"The federal reserve banks will accept at par all checks from member banks whether drawn against other member banks, non-member banks or private banks. An exception is made at the outset in the case of checks drawn against non-member banks which cannot be collected at par."

"All checks thus received from member banks will be given immediate credit entry although amount thus credited will not be counted as reserve nor become available until collected."

"In order to enable member banks to know how soon checks sent in for collection will be available, either as reserve or for payment of checks drawn against them, time schedules will be furnished to member banks."

"The actual cost without profit of the clearing and collection of checks will be paid by the federal reserve bank and assessed against the member banks in proportion to their sendings."

"The whole plan is based on generally accepted principles under which clearing and collection plans have long been operated. A federal reserve bank will not debit a member bank's reserve account with items forwarded for collection until the remittance of the member bank in payment of such items shall have had time to reach the federal reserve bank."

SOCIALISTS ASKING  
FOR LABOR MERGER

New York, April 29.—A proposal to merge with the socialist party is one of the important questions before the national convention of the socialist labor party here today.

When the socialist party recently nominated Allan L. Benson for the presidency by referendum, it also decided to authorize its executive committee to name a committee to confer with the socialist labor party's representatives regarding a union. It is expected that today's convention will appoint a committee for such a conference. The consummation of such a union would heal a breach in socialist ranks dating back 20 years.

## DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.  
Resumed debate on rural credit bill.

Elections committee agreed to push Owen bill to amend corrupt practices act.

HOUSE.  
Agricultural appropriation bill consideration continued.

LOOTING AND  
FIGHTING AS  
CITY BLAZES

Reign of Terror Seizes Dublin as Town Is Attacked by Raging Fire.

## 100 ARE SHOT DOWN

Casualty List Rapidly Growing as Irish Rebellion Gains in Ferocity.

London, April 29 (12:40 p. m.)—Parts of the city of Dublin are in flames, an Evening News dispatch filed at Belfast last night says. Street fighting continues and there is much looting, it is said, but the reinforced military is making steady progress. Most of the shops are closed and passenger communication is still cut off.

One dispatch received from Ireland this afternoon says that Sackville and Grafton streets in Dublin are in flames and that artillery is being used on the houses, the inhabitants having been removed.

Although the story of the early hours of the Dublin uprising has now been disclosed in considerable detail, England is still without authentic information as to the progress of later events. Normal telegraph, telephone and mail services with Ireland have not been restored and the existing means of communication are subject to such strict censorship that it is possible to obtain only fragmentary information. Such news dispatches as came through this morning added little to the information contained in last night's official advices and stories of eye witnesses.

So far as official reports show, the situation in Dublin is gradually being brought under control. The most important recent news that the rebels have been driven out of St. Stephen's Green with bombs, sustaining heavy losses in killed, wounded and prisoners, has not been confirmed officially. There seems to be no doubt that the rebels still control various parts of Dublin and that street fighting continues. It is reported the casualty list already exceeds one hundred.

Of the situation outside Dublin little is known beyond the official admission that the disaffection has spread to various localities in the west and south of Ireland. Field Marshal French's statement of last night described these disturbances as local in character.

Sinn Feins Hold Capital.

Dublin, Thursday, April 27, (via London April 29, noon).—Fifteen hundred or so armed men of the Sinn Fein had a hold on Ireland's capital today. After four days of fighting their rebel flag still flew from a number of central points.

Since Monday some of the chief positions in the city have been in the hands of the rebels. In defending these strongholds against regular troops and Irish nationalist volunteers the rebels are fighting with desperation for their lives which they know may be forfeited on account of treason.

Regulars now command all the rebel positions the fall of which is merely a question of time.

The streets of Dublin were deserted today except for sentries and military guards. Business was at a standstill. Civilians peeped anxiously from behind curtained windows. Field guns were barking, machine guns rattling and rifle fire was pattering apparently from every quarter at the same time.

A. P. Correspondent on Scene.  
When the Associated Press correspondent landed early this morning at the quay near the customs house the

(Continued on Page Three.)

WILL REORGANIZE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Chicago, April 29.—Plans announced today by Archbishop George W. Mundelein of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Chicago, provide for the reorganization of 250 schools under the control of the church in the city. It is stated that there are more than 110,000 pupils and 2,500 teachers affected.

The changes are to be effected gradually under the supervision of a board appointed by the archbishop. It is expected that by September uniform textbooks and uniform studies will be adopted for the first four grades. Later the changes will be extended to the entire system.